

The Mesolithic in Ireland is regarded as that period from 8000 - 4000 B.C. Mesolithic Sites were usually set on elevated ground overlooking rivers. These rivers played an important part in the survival of the hunter-gathering people by being a source of food with salmon and eels available for many months of the year. Water birds would also have been drawn to the rivers. Deer had not yet been introduced into Ireland.

Flint tools from the Mesolithic are often the best evidence of these early sites. Other tools, from wood and bone may well have been used, but flint is the one that survived the thousands of years in the ground.

Evidence from Archaeological digs shows that the huts were circular, about 6m in diameter, and made from saplings stuck in the ground, tied together at top and probably covered in skins or thatch. In the centre of the huts a scooped out hollow in the ground served as a fireplace.





